

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 CU-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /044 W
----- 056114

R 241215Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6069
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJ: LEADING REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) FIGURE SENT TO WOO
LEFT-OF-CENTER UNION CONFEDERATION

SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY SECGEN DENIZ BAYKAL ATTENDED OPENING SESSION OF DISK REVOLUTIONARY TRADE CONFEDERATION CONGRESS IN ORDER GAIN DISK SUPPORT FOR RPP. BAYKAL DELIVERED INFLAMMATORY SPEECH AGAINST NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT AND URGED "LEFT" TO UNITE AGAINST "RIGHT." END SUMMARY.

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) HAD HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION AT OPENING MAY 21 FIFTH GENERAL CONGRESS OF REVOLUTIONARY TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION DISK. RPP DEPUTY SECGEN AND MIN OF FIN IN ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, DENIZ BAYKAL, ATTENDED FIRST SESSION ACCCOMPANIED BY OTHER RPP PARLIAMENTARIANS, ISTANBUL PARTY LEADER AYTEKIN KOTIL AND PRRESIDENTS OF RPP NATIONAL AND ISTANBUL YOUTH BRANCHES ZEKI ALCIN AND SUHA AKINCI. DISK PRESIDENT KEMAL TURKLER DELIVERED OPENING SPEECH IN WHICH HE PRAISED REFORMS CARRIED OUT IN NAME OF THE "PEOPLE" DURING RPP'S SEVEN MONTHS IN OFFICE AND IN CONTRAST TO ANTI-WORKER BIAS OF DEMIREL'S NATIONALIST FRONT.

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2. THEME OF BAYKAL'S ADDRESS WAS NEED FOR LEFT TO COALESCE IN FACE

OF CHALLENGE TO LIBERTIES POSED BY DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. BAYKAL CLAIMED THAT RIGHT HAD ASSUMED 1961 CONSTITUTION WOULD PREVENT A CENTER LEFT GOVERNMENT FROM COMING TO POWER. RPP'S FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT FRIGHT

- ENED THE RIGHT, ACCORDING TO BAYKAL, AND AS A RESULT THE NATIONALIST FRONT, ALTHOUGH IN FACT A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, IS TRYING TO CHANGE LAWS TO FORECLOSE CHANCE OF THE CENTER-LEFT AGAIN GAINING POWER. BAYKAL SAID THAT THE LEFT, OF WHICH THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS IN VANGUARD, MUST HEAL SCHISMS AND UNITE BEHIND RPP IN ORDER COMBAT RIGHT'S ABRIDEMENT OF FREEDOMS. HE SAID LEFT MUST TAKE "WHATEVER MEASURES IT CAN" TO OPPOSE NATIONALIST FRONT.

3. COMMENT: SINCE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS CONGRESS WILL BE THE DETERMINATION OF DISK'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION, THE PRESENCE OF A FIGURE OF BAYKAL'S STANDING SUGGESTS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE RPP ATTACHES TO DISK'S SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH DISK BACKED THE RPP IN 1973, IT IS NOW UNDER PRESSURE FROM WITHIN TO ASSIST THE TWO NEW LABOR PARTIES, TURKISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY AND THE RECONSTITUTED TURKISH LABOR PARTY.

4. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WHICH COULD THREATEN DISK SUPPORT OF THE RPP WAS OFFERED AT THE SAME SESSION BY IBRAHIM DENIZCIER, HEAD OF THE TURK-IS AFFILIATED FOOD WORKERS UNION TEK GIDA-IS. DENIZCIER PROPOSED THAT DISK AND TURK-IS COOPERATE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW PARTY REPRESENTING "ALL THE WORKERS." GIVEN THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH MANY DELEGATES GREETED THIS PROPOSAL, IT IS NOT SURPRISING RPP WANTED ONE OF MOST POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE FIGURES ON HAND AT THE CONGRESS.

5. ALTHOUGH BAYKAL'S SURPRISINGLY INFLAMMATORY REMARKS, WHICH WERE NOT FULLY REPORTED IN NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, MUST BE VIEWED IN TERMS OF THE AUDIENCE TO WHICH THEY WERE DIRECTED, THEY ARE NONETHELESS THE MOST PROVOCATIVE WORDS WE HAVE HEARD FROM ANY RPP SPOKESMEN TO DATE; AND APPEAR TO BE FIRST TIME RPP HAS ACCUSED NATIONALIST FRONT OF TRYING TO CHANGE THE "RULES OF THE GAME." ASSUMING THAT HIS SPEECH WAS CLEARED BY ECEVIT, BAYKAL'S STATEMENT MAY HERALD A MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH IN THE RPP'S EFFORT TO BREAK UP THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolfhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISTANB01591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0961
From: ISTANBUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750520/aaaaarfq.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolfhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2003 by woolfhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEADING REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) FIGURE SENT TO WOO LEFT-OF-CENTER UNION CONFEDERATION
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU, DISK, RPP, (BAYKAL, DENIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006